354
252 For the baking of bread a special baking oven of burnt clay is used. It has the form of a large overturned water /245/ cask, with no floor and an opening in the side. This oven, which is made all in one piece and sold ready-made at the bazaar is either /Figure 93. P764/
Caption: Court with veranda in the fortress at Samarkand. In the background is the stone, on which the accession to the throne of the emirs of Bukhara in earlier times took place./ buried underground or walled into the court wall and surrounded with a thick layer of clay so that both openings /246/, the one on top and that on the side, remain open. When bread is baked in such an oven a strong fire is laid inside it; after this has gone out, the coals and ashes are removed and then the thin flakes of bread are pasted to the heated inner walls of the oven from above. In many places, especially in the colder mountainous regions like Badakhshan, these baking ovens are buried in the middle of the living rooms, in the floor, and thus they also serve for the heating of the living quarters (Figure 94). P765
/Figure 94. Caption: Baking Oven of Turkestan./

343 The privies in the dwellings of the natives are arranged very suitably and in keeping with the local conditions. In a distant part of the court a separate large room is built. In the middle of this space there is a pit about 8 meters deep with a diameter of about 3 meters, which is covered over with heavy, well cut, wooden planks. In these planks a small bamboo-shaped slit is cut out. Naturally there are no seat boards since the natives are not accustomed to sitting on chairs. A hole is left in the roof just over the slit mentioned above, in which a short pipe of burnt clay is placed. The open door opening and this roof opening provide adequate ventilation and there is no sign of a bad smell. When the sunken pit is finally almost full after many years it is then filled up with earth and the privy is moved to another place. Care is taken almost always to have a canal flowing by in which the residents may make their ablutions in the manner prescribed by the Koran.

Since in Turkestan every house owner is at the same time an owner of horses, the stables have a very important role in the dwellings of the natives. The stalls are always built next to the court wall, and are usually on the opposite sides of the court square from the dwelling quarters, sometimes even occupying three sides of the court. The stalls are little more than sheds and the supporting girders are fixed in the court wall on one side and are supported on the other by

wooden posts, as can be seen in Figure 82, p. 229. Facing the court, 343
the stalls are as open as the verandas and therefore they provide shelter only against rain and snow, while the animals are exposed, without protection against the winter cold. Fodder troughs made of clay run the length of the walls of the stalls. /247/ Their borders are made of beams to prevent their crumbling away.

These stalls serve not only as shelter for the horses, donkeys and oxen of the owner but also for the riding animals and beasts of burden of the visitors and guests. Therefore they are always laid out on a much larger scale than would be necessary for the needs of the owner alone. In addition, the stalls are also used for the storage of grain, alfalfa, straw, etc. and for the night lodging of the boys and servants during the rain. The winter provisions are piled up on dry alfalfa on the roofs of the stables and are either exposed without protection to the rain and snow or in the best circumstances are covered on top with reed mats.

Threshed grain is stored in the same kind of underground pits as the nomads use. The historians of Alexander the Great already mention these underground storage granaries, which they called seir or sir, as a characteristic of the Bactrians and the Sogdians who were the inhabitants of Turkestan of that time. (1)

1. Curtius, for example, writes in Chapter 17 of Book VII concerning the presence of underground granaries in Bactria, the Afghan Turkestan of today: Siros vocabant barbari scrobes, quos ita sollerter abscondunt, ut, nisi qui defoderunt, invenire non possint: in his conditae fruges erant.

In the middle of the court there is a pond of a larger or smaller 312
size and its stagnant and usually incredibly dirty water is used not only for drinking water for cattle but also for humans, as well as being used for the preparation of tea and food and in the meantime for washing clothes as well.

From the court one enters the gardens by a small low door, and 351
this is the real dwelling place of the more prosperous Central Asians during the warm part of the year. The gardens are usually planted very densely with trees to provide as intense a shade as possible, and they are intersected by a countless number of small canals which serve